



January 2, 2024

The Honorable Shalanda Young, Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
725 17<sup>th</sup> ST, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Director Young:

On behalf of the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA), International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), and Big City Emergency Managers (BCEM), we wish to draw your attention to the need for additional funds in the Emergency Management Performance Grant Program (EMPG) within the Federal Assistance account at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Stagnant at \$355 million since FY20, the continued dynamics of the economy and additional responsibilities on emergency managers demonstrates a need to codify one of the COVID-19 supplemental amounts of \$100 million and re-baseline EMPG at \$455 million in the Administration's FY25 budget request.

With a 50-50 matching requirement, the true investment in this program is more than twice the Federal expenditure. EMPG is a complex and impactful program. In FY22, 52 disasters, not including those ongoing for COVID-19, required a major or emergency declaration through FEMA. Beyond those, 19,290 events required state or local assets, but did not reach the level of a federal declaration. Programs such as EMPG allow these events to be managed without Federal expenditures.

Furthermore, the impact of EMPG extends far beyond traditional emergency management activities. For example, while health officials maintained primary responsibility for the COVID-19 response at the Federal level, state and local levels, emergency managers coordinated vital functions to mitigate impacts to the healthcare sector and protect the American people. Additionally, the ongoing response to combat the opioid epidemic, maintain cybersecurity requirements, and manage effects from the Southwest Border requires emergency managers to coordinate at unprecedented levels of responsibility. Support for EMPG lessens the burdens of these requirements and enables emergency managers to address emerging needs and threats more proactively.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Russell J. Strickland'.

Russell J. Strickland  
President, NEMA

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Justin Kates'.

Justin Kates  
President, IAEM-USA

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Mark Sloan'.

Mark Sloan  
Board Chair, BCEM

cc: The Honorable Deanne Criswell, FEMA Administrator